



United for Justice and Opportunity!



Annual Report 2010-2011

Letter from the Executive Director & Board Chair

Dear Friends,

As we write this, immigrant communities are in deeper crisis than ever before—especially hard hit by the economic downturn and living in fear of deportation and family separation in a year that broke the record for the number of people deported—almost 400,000.

Congress has abdicated responsibility for fixing our immigration system. Presidential candidates use divisive, even violent speech when it comes to immigrants. The President is finally making some welcome steps toward reform, but much more is needed to reverse course from enforcement-only to real solutions: certain federal enforcement policies and practices just simply need to end. At the state level, you have Alabama at one end of the continuum, which has significantly one-upped Arizona as the fiercest battleground in the immigration debate; and New York at the other end—whose leaders have provided a model for how a state can promote positive messages and policies around issues of immigration and integration. And Mayor Bloomberg continues to lead a national coalition of mayors and business leaders to advance immigration reform.

That kind of leadership doesn't happen in a vacuum. It depends on the power of coalition—the ability of diverse groups to come together to forge a common agenda and hold our political leaders accountable.

That's where the New York Immigration Coalition comes in. In the past year, we've again harnessed our collective strength to safeguard critical immigrant services funding at the city and state levels. To send 10,000 letters to the President to take action to repair our broken immigration system. To see more than a decade's worth of advocacy come to fruition with Governor Cuomo's announcement of an executive order providing language access statewide. We also saw the governor step up to oppose the state's participation in the fundamentally flawed federal Secure Communities program, and the City Council support our Family Resource Center initiative—a partnership among schools, community groups, and parents to increase immigrant parent engagement in the schools and college readiness for their children. And we saw the state's education leaders, Chancellor Tisch and Commissioner King, advocate passionately to support the federal DREAM Act and for state-level policies that would help all students go to college regardless of immigration status—because they recognized that we can't promote the state's economy and competitiveness if we don't help all our children realize their potential.

None of this could have happened without the phenomenal dedication, the spirit of collaboration, and the willingness to speak up of NYC's diverse and dedicated membership. None of this could have happened without the willingness of public officials to hear us and work with us. And none of this could have happened without our supporters and donors.

For that, on behalf of the board and staff of the New York Immigration Coalition, we say thank you—you have our deepest gratitude and respect.

And as we head into 2012, we will work our hardest, together with our members, to show the power of the immigrant vote in a critical election year. And we will work our hardest, together with our members, to bring more unity, deeper engagement and bigger victories that have a direct impact on immigrant families throughout New York State and beyond.

Chung-Wha Hong
Executive Director

Graciela Heymann
Board Chair

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Azadeh Khalili and Kimberly Sykes

NOTABLE NUMBERS

WHAT WE'VE ACCOMPLISHED THIS YEAR

- 184** The number of trainings and community education events
- 4,730** The number of individuals reached through these events
- 5,600** The number of individuals reached through our consulate ID initiative
- 3,000+** The number of ID documents issued, facilitating school, civic, and economic engagement for immigrant families
- 28** The number of state agencies that will provide language assistance, a result of the statewide language access executive order issued by Governor Cuomo
- 10,000** The number of letters and pens sent to the White House through our "With the Stroke of a Pen" campaign, part of the national "Change Takes Courage" campaign seeking executive action to repair our broken immigration system
- 300,000** The number of pending deportation cases the Obama administration will review, with aim of suspending the deportation of DREAMers and other "low-priority" cases—a direct result of the pressure placed on the White House
- 285,000** The number of new citizens we registered to vote (since 1998)

FUN FACTS

- \$37 billion** The annual increase to the US Gross Domestic Product attributable to immigration
- 75** Percentage of undocumented immigrants who pay payroll taxes
- 22** Percentage of New York State population that is foreign born
- \$126.6 billion** The 2009 purchasing power of New York State's Latino and Asian populations alone
- \$215 billion** Level of economic activity contributed by immigrants in the five boroughs of New York City
- \$1.5 trillion** Amount in additional GDP projected over ten years as a result of comprehensive immigration reform
- 1 million** Number of immigrants in New York State who are registered to vote

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
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2010-2011 Highlights

NYDailyNews.com
DAILY NEWS

by Chung-Wah Hong

DECEMBER 2, 2010 We are at a crossroads on our immigration policy. We can embrace the DREAM Act and start taking sensible steps to integrate immigrant families into the social fabric, while strengthening our economy in the process. Or we can continue to cheaply pander to public frustration by promoting the falsehood that building bigger fences, erecting detention facilities, tearing apart families, denying the chance for young people to fulfill their potential and fomenting fear and anger are the answer.



◀ **ALL YEAR: WITH THE STROKE OF A PEN CAMPAIGN.** With Congress paralyzed, the NYIC launches our "With the Stroke of a Pen" campaign, as part of the national Change Takes Courage campaign, seeking executive action by the President to undo some of the damage of our broken immigration system. Organizations from across the state and beyond sign on; six City Council members join us for a Kick-off press conference; our video for the campaign gets widely shared by allies across the country; and Congress members Nydia Velázquez, Yvette Clarke, and Luis Guterres all promote the campaign. At community events, online, and in street canvasses, we get nearly ten thousand individuals to sign letters, which we send to the White House, each letter accompanied by a pen for the president's use. With our campaign adding to the pressure on the President to take action, with the stroke of a pen, the administration announces it will review pending deportation cases and suspend some—e.g., of DREAM-eligible young people. A step in the right direction, although the devil is in the details; and so while we recognize this victory, we also press for effective implementation and continue to push for further changes that are within the President's power to make.



▼ **FEBRUARY: FOSTERING IMMIGRANT CIVIC ENGAGEMENT.** The NYIC launches the Democracy Institute, a full-day convening to provide our members with an understanding of government structures, legislative and budget processes, and how to get involved. The day also includes a primer on budget and policy issues. More than thirty organizations from across the state attend the event; and the subject matter is reinforced in regular meetings of NYIC working groups throughout the year.

Civic Engagement by Immigrants
Letter to the Editor, The New York Times
Published: April 15, 2011

"We see firsthand the phenomenal work of immigrant communities as actively engaged citizens. They have organized parents in the public schools and worked with hospitals to better address community health needs; secured policies that make city agencies accessible to a multilingual constituency; helped revitalize parks and improve public spaces; and become a growing force at the ballot box."

GRACE HEYMANN and GUILLERMO CHACON,
Chairwoman and Vice Chairman of the
New York Immigration Coalition.

▶ **MARCH: IMMIGRANTS' DAY OF ACTION IN ALBANY.** The NYIC and its member organizations show up in force in the state's capital to protect immigrant services funding, press for language access, and get the governor to rescind New York State's participation in the federal immigration enforcement program, Secure Communities (among other asks). Fifty-four organizations mobilize 750 community members; participate in a morning forum with public officials; and clearly have their voices heard (in meetings with officials and when the NYIC's advocacy agenda is highlighted on the front page of *El Diario*). Within months, we declare victory on key items on our state agenda, with funding safeguarded, NY opposing Secure Communities, and an executive order on statewide language access. (More on these achievements later in the timeline).

MARCH 5, 2011
Grupos exigen acción de Gobernador Cuomo
(Groups demand action from Gov. Cuomo)



▲ **APRIL: CITY ADVOCACY DAY.** A breakfast briefing with a dozen Council members, other city officials, and leaders of NYIC member organizations. An open exchange to build energy for making progress on our city budget and policy priorities. A rally of 200 people—in a torrential downpour—on the steps of City Hall, raising their voices (and umbrellas) high. The result? In a challenging budget year, we protect funding for ESL, adult literacy, and immigration legal services, and the City Council provides seed funding for our Family Resource Center Initiative, which aims to facilitate immigrant parent engagement in their children's education.

Ap Associated Press
ESPAÑOL
"Protestan posibles recortes de fondos para inmigrantes en NY"
06/07/2011 Unas 200 personas se plantaron frente a las puertas del ayuntamiento para exigir que se mantenga el presupuesto del programa Immigrant Opportunities Initiative (IOI, por sus siglas en inglés).

APRIL: SOMOS EL FUTURO ALBANY CONFERENCE: The NYIC leads an immigration workshop at Somos Albany and urges state legislators to take action for immigrants.



▲ **MAY: PROMOTING DISCOUNT DRUG CARDS.** NYIC joins Mayor Bloomberg and Council Speaker Quinn in promoting a citywide prescription drug discount program—a benefit to the large number of uninsured and underinsured New Yorkers.

▶ **JUNE: GOVERNOR CUOMO ANNOUNCES OPPOSITION TO SECURE COMMUNITIES.** A misnomer, for sure: Secure Communities, a federal program that uses local law enforcement to identify individuals for deportation, casts a wide dragnet: gives rise to racial and ethnic profiling; and compromises police/community relations. After months of coordinated advocacy by the NYIC, its member groups, and other allies, Governor Cuomo announces the state's opposition to the program. While the Obama administration won't ultimately back down from the program, the Governor's stance does New York proud and generates momentum for the growing national opposition to the program.

ALL YEAR: NYIC STAFF SPREAD THE WORD. NYIC staff share their expertise and insights in a wide array of forums: the National Council of La Raza's national conference; the Municipal Art Society; the Americas Society/Council of the Americas; the Cardozo School of Law's "Innovative Approaches to Immigration Representation: Exploring New Partnerships"; the Brian Lehrer show at Greenspace, to name a few—speaking on issues from health reform to voter engagement, from education and legal services to community development and demographics.

▶ **JUNE 2011 BUILDERS OF THE NEW NEW YORK.** A joyous evening brings together 400 friends to toast our formidable honorees: Marcos Rodríguez of Paladium Equity Partners; Joseph Salvo at the Department of City Planning; and Thomas Suozzi, the former Nassau County Executive. The celebration is led by event co-chairs Hector Figueroa, Local 32BJ SBU; Betsy Gotbaum, former NYC Public Advocate; Jay Harshenson, City University of New York; Grace Lyu-Volkhausen, Tiger Baron Foundation; Merryl Tisch, Chancellor, NYS Board of Regents; Congresswoman Nydia Velázquez; and Kathy Wylie, Partnership for New York City. A comedy routine by Hari Kondabolu and a dance party with music by Red Baraat close out the evening, giving the NYIC crowd a chance to show it has a sense of humor and can play as hard as it works!



NY 1
Secure Communities Program Officially Suspended In New York, June 1, 2011

Governor Cuomo Announces Opposition to Secure Communities
...The governor said a review is needed of growing evidence that the controversial program is not working... Critics say the program oversteps boundaries, targets innocent people and makes communities less secure.

The New York Times
A Roadmap for Immigrant Parents
October 13, 2011

ON THURSDAY, THE NEW YORK IMMIGRATION COALITION...announced an ambitious project, supported by public and private money, [that] establishes a network of resource centers at schools around the city that will help immigrants learn about the American educational system.

▶ **OCTOBER: STATEWIDE LANGUAGE ACCESS EXECUTIVE ORDER.** More than a decade ago, expanding its work on language access beyond New York City, the NYIC first started pushing the state to make its agencies and hospitals accessible to all New Yorkers, regardless of English language skills. Coordinated advocacy by the NYIC and its partners paves the way for Governor Cuomo's announcement of an executive order providing language assistance services at 28 state agencies. At a time when so many states are beating a different path, New York is a bright light, recognizing government as a force for good and immigrants as constituents vital to the state's well being.

Albany Times Union, "By Exec Order, Cuomo expands translation services"
10/6/2011 Joined by minority advocates and lawmakers, Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed an executive order expanding translation services to those who speak Spanish, Chinese, Italian, Russian, French, and French Créole.



▶ **OCTOBER: PROMOTING IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION.** NYIC is a founding member of the National Partnership for New Americans, a national platform for advancing immigrant integration. Its signature program, the National Immigrant Integration Conference, takes place in Seattle, drawing 750 participants from across the country. The NYIC leads the workshops on youth and education; we also lead a session of the Citizenship Boot Camp, sharing our expertise on citizenship and immigration law, as well as on capacity building for emerging programs.

NOVEMBER: MEDICAID REDESIGN. The NYIC makes its mark on the Governor's Medicaid Redesign Team (MRT), charged with improving quality in the Medicaid program while saving money without cutting eligibility. Appointed to the Health Disparities subcommittee, the NYIC and our partners develop recommendations that are adopted by the MRT for the governor's consideration, including provisions to streamline the emergency Medicaid application process and to enhance language assistance services.



◀ **NOVEMBER: DREAM ACT, CONTINUED.** Some campaigns take a long time and require multiple approaches. There's progress—the President announces that eligible DREAMers will be protected from deportation; the New York State Board of Regents, under the leadership of Chancellor Merryl Tisch and Education Commissioner John King, passes a resolution supporting the federal DREAM Act and works to advance legislation at the State level that would open up educational opportunities for DREAMers. The DREAM Fellowship Program, to provide scholarships and internships to DREAMers; we also bring together a broad coalition to advance state-level policies that could benefit DREAMers. Stay tuned for developments in the months ahead: the year draws to a close, but the fight for justice and opportunity continues!



THE HUFFINGTON POST **LATINO POLITICS**
THE INTERNET NEWSPAPER NEWS BLOGS VIDEO COMMUNITY

Jose Antonio Vargas And Immigration Activists Launch DREAM Act Initiative
9/16/11 Speaking at Judson Memorial Church in New York City, Vargas and other activists including Chung-Wah Hong of the New York Immigration Coalition promoted the "New York State Congregations in Solidarity with DREAMers,"...to spur on the passage of the DREAM Act.

The New York Times
Regents Plan Push for Aid to ... Immigrants
October 14, 2011

CHUNG-WHA HONG SAID THE REGENTS' agenda was a natural evolution of a process begun years ago to refine the state's policies regarding students who are not proficient in English. "It really brings the focus back to what the issue is about," she said. "It's about education, and it's about our children."

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